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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD GRADUATE STUDENT RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP TO CONDUCT "SELF-HELP" PROJECTS IN ZIMBABWE

DAYTON, Ohio, August 16, 1988---When the Rev. Leon Sullivan, a well-known apartheid foe, visited the University of Dayton in February, he encouraged minority graduate students to apply for a fellowship program that sends students to Africa to work in grass-roots economic development projects.

Sharita Jeffries, a UD graduate student in communications, has been selected as one of only five in the country to participate in Sullivan's new International Fellows Program. The 23-year-old Cleveland native will undergo a one-month orientation program at Tuskegee University in Alabama before embarking for Zimbabwe in September. The fellowship carries a \$5,000 stipend.

During the nine-month program, the students assist project leaders in the development of farms, businesses, educational centers and health centers. They record their experiences in a journal and later, when they return to their universities, they conduct workshops about their African experience.

The other students selected are from Yale University, Pennsylvania State University, Howard University and Lincoln University. Two will go to Nigeria, one to Sierra Leone and another to the Ivory Coast.

The International Fellows Program, funded by the Philadelphia-based International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) and The William Penn Foundation, "ignites interest in graduate students about development efforts taking place in Africa," said Julie Sullivan, project officer and Sullivan's daughter. "Unlike the Peace Corps, this program is for people who may go on and work in grass-roots, third world development efforts. It's based on the self-help philosophy. When 100 people learn how to teach a village to read, there's a ripple effect."